

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /078 W  
-----001839 071606Z /43

O R 071530Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2437

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5272

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH ANNOUNCES "NEW COURSE" FOR NATION

1. PRESS OF SEPTEMBER 7 REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER SMITH TOLD PARLIAMENT ON SEPTEMBER 6 THAT HE WOULD, WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS, ANNOUNCE A "NEW COURSE" FOR RHODESIA. ACCOUNTS QUOTE SMITH AS SAYING "I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR MORE DEFINITE AND POSITIVE DECISIONS AND REAPPRAISALS." SOME OF THESE MAY NOT COMPLETELY SATISFY THOSE IN THE WORLD WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO HELP US, BUT I THINK THEY HAVE TO REALIZE THERE IS A LIMIT BEYOND WHICH WE CANNOT GO. IN THIS SPIRIT I HOPE THAT IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO I WILL HAVE SOMETHING FURTHER TO PUT TO THE NATION. WE HAVE TO FIND SOME MEANS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. WE CANNOT GO ON ALLOWING OUR REASONABLENESS TO BE MISINTERPRETED BY OTHERS AS WEAKNESS SO THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE GOT US ON THE RUN AND THEY CAN PUSH US AROUND. I WARN THEM  
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THEY HAVE SERIOUSLY MISJUDGED THE CASE IF THAT IS THE WAY THEIR THINKING IS GOING. WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS, TODAY OR TOMORROW, I AM GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING FIRM AND POSITIVE INDICATING A DEFINITE TREND AND A NEW COURSE WE ARE GOING TO FOLLOW."

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ROLLO HAYMAN TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT

TO COMPLETE PREPARATIONS FOR A COMPLETE HANDOVER TO MAJORITY  
RULE BY THE END OF THE YEAR. HAYMAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT, EVEN  
WITHOUT SETBACKS DUE TO THE SECURITY SITUATION, IT WOULD  
TAKE FOUR MONTHS MINIMUM TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE  
PUBLICATION OF A DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND THE TRANSFER TO A  
NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO REPORT THAT MUZOREWA LEFT FOR LONDON  
ON SEPTEMBER 6 FOR "UNDISCLOSED REASONS".

4. COMMENT: IF THESE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE, IT APPEARS THAT  
UNPLEASANT REALITIES ARE CLOSING ON SMITH, WHO, NOT  
SURPRISINGLY, NOW SEEMS ON THE VERGE OF ALTERING THE INTERNAL  
SETTLEMENT TIMETABLE AND PERHAPS INSTITUTING TIGHTER SECURITY  
CONTROLS AND POLICIES. GIVEN THE STRONG DESIRE OF MUZOREWA  
AND SITHOLE TO PROCEED WITH THE MARCH 3 AGREEMENT ON SCHEDULE,  
THE STRAINS ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MAY WELL MOUNT  
SUBSTANTIALLY.  
EDMONDSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** RHODESIA: SMITH ANNOUNCES "NEW COURSE" FOR NATION  
**TAGS:** PDEV, PINT, RH, (SMITH, IAN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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